REMARKS

Claims 9-35 are pending in the present application. Of these, claims 16-34 have been withdrawn from consideration. In this amendment, Applicants amend claims 9 and 35.

In the Office Action mailed June 9, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 9-14 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over Jarvinen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,170,073 B1), hereinafter referred to as "Jarvinen." Furthermore, the Examiner rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jarvinen in view in view of Tanaka (U.S. Patent No. 5,740,187 A), hereinafter referred to as "Tanaka."

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 9-14 and 35 stand rejected as unpatentable over Jarvinen.

Applicants amend all claims to include the feature "that the outer quality metric is determined to check the integrity of the frame at a receiver and the inner quality is determined to check the integrity of the at least one group of information bits of a particular class at the receiver if the outer quality metric check shows an erasure." As explained in Applicants' specification as originally filed, the outer quality metric and the inner quality metric operate independently, so that if at the receiver the outer quality metric shows an erasure on the entire frame, the inner quality metric can be used to check the integrity of a group of information bits of a particular class. Please see, for example, page 6 line 33 through page 7, line 4.

Jarvinen teaches in Figures 9 and 10 applying separate CRC protection to different classes of bits. Further, Jarvinen teaches in Figure 8 that one class can be a subset of the other. Applicants' claim, however, are distinct from Jarvinen. Applicant teaches an outer quality metric applied to the entire frame and an inner quality metric applied to a particular class of bits, the inner quality metric to be used if the outer quality metric determines an erasure. Jarvinen has no such teaching. Therefore, all of Applicants' claims are patentable over Jarvinen.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Applicants' claim 15 is also allowable because Jarvinen combined with Tanaka does not teach or suggest all of the features in this claim. As discussed above, Jarvinen does not teach all

features of Applicants claim as amended. Tanaka does not teach an outer code and an inner code as used in Applicants' claims and specification. As used in claim 1 and therefore in claim 15, the outer code protects the information bits in the entire frame and the inner code protects a particular class of bits within the frame. Instead, the inner and outer codes in Tanaka protect the same data (please see Tanaka, FIG. 4). Tanaka states "the outer code is generated in the horizontal scan direction, and the inner code is generated in the vertical direction for a predetermined number of horizontal scan lines" (please see Tanaka, column 2, lines 54-57). Further, an "outer code decoding circuit decodes the outer code parity to correct any error still resident in the data error-corrected by the inner code decoding circuit" (please see Tanaka, column 3, lines 7-9). Therefore, Tanaka does not teach a decoder for a frame with an outer quality metric applied to the entire frame and an inner quality metric applied to a particular class of bits. Therefore, Jarvinen and Tanaka do not teach or suggest all the features in Applicants' claim 15.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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